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History of Bon Homme county

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HISTORY OF Bon Homme County



*From Early Settlement
Until 1921*



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INTRODUCTORY

Progressive, substantial and prosperous, is a phrase fully descriptive of the conditions of every activity of Bon Homme county; yet, do we ever pause, do we ever stop to think to whom do we owe our prosperity, who was it that paved the way, who was it that laid the firm foundation, that the waves of adversity may beat against, but with little effect? To the Pioneers of Bon Homme County, to the gray-haired fathers and mothers who are with us today, and to those who have answered the final call. These people, destitute as the country itself, brought with them that indomitable pluck and energy which never fail of success, no matter where applied. Scarcely a day in the years gone by but presented difficulties before which a weaker people would have turned in despair, but over and through it all they pressed onward until the broad prairies of Bon Homme County, a commonwealth by a survival-selected people of superior character, crowns their laborous achievement.

Bon Homme County has the Missouri river for the southern boundary; it adjoins Yankton County on the east, Hutchinson County on the north, and Charles Mix County on the west. It is comprised of about seventeen Congressional townships, and has an area of not far from 540 square miles, or 345,600 acres.

Its streams are Chouteau, Emanuel, Cooper, Silver, and Snatch Creeks, emptying into the Missouri River, and Sanborn, Dawson, and Beaver Creeks, which empty into the James or Dakota River.

Bon Homme Island, which contains about 4500 acres, is located in the Missouri River, near the southeast corner of the county, and is a part of it; the main channel of the river running between the island and the State of Nebraska, when Dakota Territory was created, although it subsequently cut its way between the main land of the territory and its northern shore of the island. In the early days this island was heavily timbered and furnished the pioneers of the county a plentiful supply of fuel and building material.

The surface of the country in Bon Homme County is similar to that of other parts of the state along the Missouri River. In general it is rolling prairie with river and creek bluffs and bottoms, and some natural timber skirting the streams. The soil like that of the state at large is a very productive black loam, and its chief products are corn, wheat, oats, barley, rye, alfalfa hay, vegetables, and some fruit. Diversified farming is the rule. Corn and stock raising has largely taken the place of wheat and flax industries of the earlier years.

This county, with its population of 11,950, exhibits a very prosperous condition; as a rule its farms are well improved and kept in a high state of cultivation, and its farm houses and other buildings compare favorably with those of the older states of the northwest.

As to the origin of the name of Bon Homme County, tradition says, that Bon Homme Island received its name from a young man who was captured by the Indians, about 1830, and who after his release from captivity for his good qualities, located on the island and lived there the remainder of his life; he died about 1848. He hunted wild turkeys and buffalo, and supplied the trading fleets passing his island home, with the meat of the former and sold his buffalo skins to their traders. This man

was known to the Indians as well as the whites as a good man, for his many acts of kindness to savage as well as civilized people. It is related of him that between 1838 and 1840 he saved the lives of a number of white men who were prospecting for coal along the bluffs on the Nebraska side of the river, opposite the island, when a thousand savage Indians held them imprisoned on the "Devil's Nest" by his intercession with the latter in their behalf and a liberal reward for their release. The latch string of his cabin was out to all comers as an invitation to enter and partake of his hospitality. He was called "The Good-Man" English, "Bon Homme" in French and "Washta" Pale Face in Indian. The county takes its name from that of the island.

Bon Homme County was organized by an act of the first territorial legislature in April, 1862, and the County Seat was located at Bon Homme, a little hamlet of a half a dozen dwelling houses on the Missouri river, opposite Bon Homme Island.

The first county officials were as follows:

County Commissioners—

Byron M. Smith,

L. H. Litchfield,

Henry Hartsough.

Register of Deeds—W. H. Granger.

Sheriff—J. F. Hook.

Judge of Probate—D. C. Gross.

County Attorney—D. M. Metcalf (a Methodist minister).

Superintendent of Schools—D. G. Irish.

Justice of the Peace—D. P. Bradford (a liberal descendant of Governor Bradford of the Plymouth Colony), and William Hammond.

All of these men were appointed by Governor Jayne, the chief executive of the territory.

The first territorial legislature was elected, in

purposely of the proclamation of Governor Jayne, from the territory at large. In the fall of 1861, those elected from that part of the territory, which subsequently became Bon Homme, were John H. Shober, member of the Council; George M. Ginney, elected Speaker, and Rueben Wallace, member of the House.

Perhaps some of our legislature history of later days may be traced to the fact that the legislative life of the territory began on Saint Patrick's Day. The legislature convened at Yankton on the 17th day of March, 1862.

Bon Homme

The earliest settlement in the county, and one of the easiest in the territory, was made by a party of young men from Mantorville, Dodge County, Minnesota, who on their journey by way of Sioux City on the south side of the Missouri River, to Pike's Peak, under the leadership of John H. Shober, in 1858, observing the inviting appearance of the country in the vicinity of the site of the village of Bon Homme from the opposite side of the river, brought their journey to a halt, felled a large cottonwood tree, cut off a section large enough for the purpose and hollowed it out for a canoe, which they named the "Gentle Annie," and in which they crossed the river to examine the country that had challenged their admiration as they viewed it from the Nebraska bluffs. After looking over the land to their satisfaction, they determined to locate there in preference to the pursuit of their journey to Pike's Peak, and surveyed a townsite and named it Bon Homme.

They then built a townsite cabin, and another building for their quarters while making improve-

ments, but soon after, in June or July of that year, Col. Redfield, the Yankton Indian agent, came down on them with a party of his wards, burned their buildings and drove them to their shipping, in which they crossed the river to the Nebraska side, where they built cabins and remained until the following spring. A treaty in the meantime having been concluded with the Indians for the cession to the United States of the Dakota land, they returned to the scene of their early ambitions and were soon joined by a party of recruits brought by Mr. Shober, who had gone back to Minnesota for them, where his companions went into winter quarters the fall before - and to those he added another party before the close of the year.

In the Bon Homme colony, at this time, among others, were Mrs. Francis Rounds and her two children, George T. and Della; Harmon, Joseph and Charles Stager, Ruel Gifford and family; Nathan McDaniels and family; Thomas Tait, L. H. Litchfield, William Hammond, Dr. Wallace, G. W. Warford, and D. P. Bradford, and his son Henry. In the winter of 1859 and early spring of 1860 several other families were added to it and by September, 1862, there were twenty-seven families in the settlement.

About this time trouble broke out with the Indians and on the call of Gov. Jayne, the settlers joined those at Yankton, for their common defense, and few of them ever returned.

Of the first two school houses in Bon Homme County, Mrs. W. T. Williams, formerly Della Rounds, writes as follows: "Our family, in company with a number of others, arrived in Bon Homme about November 12, 1859. Shortly after we were settled, Mr. D. P. Bradford came and built a house for his family, who were then living in Sioux City. His family came to Bon Homme on the first boat in the

spring of 1860, probably the latter part of April or the first of May.

The first school house was built after they came, and it was a primitive affair and did not take long to build. Within two weeks of the arrival of the Bradfords, Miss Emma Bradford, second daughter of D. P. Bradford, about sixteen years of age, was installed as teacher. She taught a three months' term of school. There were ten pupils, as follows: John and Anna Bradford, Melissa John and Ira Brown, Ann, Mary and George McDaniels, and George and Della Rounds. Miss Emma Bradford returned to Sioux City in the fall of 1860 to continue her studies in the schools of that place.

In 1861 there was a good deal of building and improvement in the town, but there was no school for the lack of a teacher. In 1862, at the time of the Indian trouble, we had what we considered a fine new school house, built by Mr. Shober at his own expense. It was made of hewn logs, had a rough cottonwood floor, cottonwood shingles on the roof, three windows of two sash each, with 8x10 glass, and a ceiling overhead of thin cottonwood boards which warped until they looked as though they had been run through a fluting machine; but in that building we never had a school.

The people all went to Yankton that year and fortified themselves against the Indians. When the scare was over, very few of them returned, some going back to their homes in the east and a few settling in Iowa. We returned to Bon Homme, and in the spring of 1864 my mother bought from Mr. Shober this new school house.

Some time in 1864 there arrived in Bon Homme about a dozen families of what was called the "Syra-cuse Colony" under the leadership of James S. Foster. Mrs. Foster opened a school shortly after their

arrival in Mr. Bradford's house, which had been used during the winter of 1862-3 as soldiers' barracks, there having been a squad of soldiers kept in Bon Homme for the protection of the settlers and as a relay in carrying dispatches to the forts above us on the river. Mrs. Foster taught a three months' term of school.

The following statement was made by F. A. Morgan, secretary of the Pioneers' Association of Bon Homme, at the 11th annual meeting in regard to the successful effort made to secure money and erect a monument to commemorate building of the first school house in Dakota Territory:

Tyndall, S. D., Sept. 8, 1910. Perhaps it is not out of place at this time as a matter of record, to briefly outline the history of the successful effort to erect a monument to commemorate the building of the first school house in Dakota Territory, fifty years ago.

This territory now comprises the five great states of South Dakota, North Dakota, Wyoming, Montana and Idaho, and old Bon Homme has the unquestioned honor of having the pioneer school building in all this vast territory.

This fact has been disputed and other towns have claimed the honor.

Doane Robinson, secretary of the State Historical Society, after a thorough and complete investigation of the subject, has declared that the first building built for school purposes in Dakota Territory was the log school house built by the pioneers of Bon Homme County in the spring of 1860, in the settlement of Bon Homme.

The movement to commemorate this interesting event by erecting a suitable monument on the site of the first school house was started at the organization and first meeting of the Pioneers Association

tion of Bon Homme County at Tyndall, September 23, 1900, and during the next two years \$79.93 was raised for that purpose.

Because of lack of general interest nothing more was done toward securing the necessary funds until the 7th annual meeting of the association held at Tyndall, S. D., Sept. 12, 1906.

At this meeting it was resolved to raise \$500 to erect the monument. A committee consisting of Geo. W. Snow, J. H. Dickson, B. H. Wood and John Keilhau, was appointed to solicit funds. Up to the time of the next annual meeting, Aug. 29, 1907, \$15.00, contributed by Geo. W. Snow and John Keilhau, had been collected, making the amount in the monument fund \$34.93.

Soon after this meeting Geo. W. Snow, president, and F. A. Morgan, secretary of the association, through the courtesy of the County Superintendent of Schools, G. E. Muller, secured the names of every teacher and school officer in the county and commenced a systematic canvass with the determination to raise by popular subscription during the year the necessary funds. Large contributions were not solicited nor desired. By visiting and presenting the matter at teachers' meetings and by circular letters and correspondence with teachers and school officers, and by approval and co-operation of the county superintendent of schools, a general interest was created in the enterprise.

The secretary's report at the next annual meeting held in Tyndall, Aug. 29, 1908, showed that during the year 40 school districts and about 1200 pupils had contributed \$383.40. Individuals besides school children had contributed \$160.09, which, with the balance on hand at the last annual meeting, \$94.93, gave a total in the monument fund of \$638.40.

The money having been raised that was thought

sufficient the next step was the location and erection of the monument.

From the historical and sentimental, as well as every other point of view it was desirable to locate the monument on the exact site of the first school house.

But investigation had developed the fact that there was doubt as to the exact location of the first school house and the further fact that the supposed site could not be bought. For these reasons the officers of the association asked that a committee be appointed to secure grounds at or near the site and erect a monument with the funds collected. J. L. Turner, A. J. Abbott and F. P. Brooks were appointed such committee.

At the next annual meeting held in Tyndall, Sept. 2, 1909, the monument committee reported that they were unable to locate the site definitely and were unable to secure title to the ground where the first school house is supposed to have been located.

Upon motion, Geo. W. Snow, president, and F. A. Morgan, secretary of the association, were made members of the monument committee, and the committee, consisting of Geo. W. Snow, F. A. Morgan, J. L. Turner, F. P. Brooks and A. J. Abbott, was instructed to continue this work and if possible have the monument in place at the time of the next annual meeting which was ordered to be held in Bon Homme during the summer of 1910, the fifteenth anniversary of the building of the first school house.

The monument committee met in Bon Homme April 6th, 1910, and organized by electing J. L. Turner, chairman, F. A. Morgan, secretary, and F. F. Chladek, treasurer. After discussion with residents of Bon Homme it appeared that there was some uncertainty as to the exact location of the first school house, and it was also ascertained that the

present owner of the supposed site, refused to sell the same.

Several nearby sites were suggested by W. C. Bartwell and other residents of Bon Homme. The committee adjourned subject to the call of the chairman without taking definite action.

Springfield, April 20, 1910. The monument committee met pursuant to call of the chairman. All members of the committee present, J. L. Turner, Geo. W. Snow, F. A. Morgan, F. P. Brooks, A. J. Abbott, W. C. Bardwell, president, and F. F. Chladek, treasurer of the association, were also present and invited to act with the committee.

The location of the monument was discussed but no definite action taken.

Norman Rapalee was present and submitted plans and specifications for a monument to cost \$600.00. Mr. Rapalee's proposition was accepted and the chairman and secretary were directed to enter into a contract with him according to the terms proposed, which was done.

The meeting then adjourned to meet at Bon Homme May 3, 1910.

The monument committee met pursuant to adjournment. Present, J. L. Turner, Geo. W. Snow, A. J. Abbott, F. P. Brooks. The secretary being absent F. P. Brooks was elected secretary pro tem. The location of the monument was considered.

Mr. Franklin Bussey proposed to donate as location for the monument a lot 24x24 feet in the S.E. corner of the S.E. quarter of the S.W. quarter, Sec. 12, Twp. 93, R. 59. Said lot being within the limits of the original town of Bon Homme, and as near the location of the first school house as suitable ground could be secured that is accessible by permanent public roads.

The members of the committee present favor this

lot, but gave notice that suggestions for other lots would be considered. The residents of the locality differ in about equal numbers as to the most suitable location for the monument.

The committee decided to determine the exact location of the monument at a future meeting to be called by the chairman, and notice of such meeting to be published in the Springfield Times and Tyndall Tribune, and all persons interested invited to be present, and all persons with the committee in regard to inquire and confer with the committee in regard to inscriptions to be placed on the monument.

F. P. Brooks,

Sec'y pro tem of committee meeting, May 3, 1910. Tyndall, July 8, 1910. The monument committee met pursuant to call of the chairman. All members present. The location of the monument was thoroughly discussed. Several interested persons met with the committee and took part in the discussion. A vote was taken on location for the monument. Four votes were cast for location offered by Franklin Bussey, and one vote for location near the present Bon Homme school house. Mr. Bussey's offer was declared accepted.

The inscription to be placed on the monument was decided upon at this meeting and was as follows:
East side—"In 1860, near this place, was erected the first school house in the territory now comprising the States of South Dakota, North Dakota, Idaho, Wyoming and Montana."

South side—"First teacher, Emma J. Bradford. Pupils: John Bradford, Geo. McDaniels, Leanna Bradford, Ira Brown, Mary McDaniels, Melissa Brown, Geo. T. Rounds, Della Rounds."

North side—"Erected to commemorate the first school house by the Pioneer Association of Bon Homme County, in 1910, with contributions from school children and other citizens. Geo. W. Snow,

J. E. Turner, F. A. Morgan, F. P. Brooks, A. J. Abbott, Committee."

The monument was completed and in place Sept. 1, 1910. It was dedicated at the annual meeting of the Pioneer Association of Bon Homme County on Thursday, Sept. 8, 1910.

Six hundred ninety-six dollars and 69 cents had been collected up to the time. \$618.00 was paid for the monument and it is estimated that \$150.00 will build a suitable fence and place the ground in proper condition.

F. A. Morgan, Secretary.

The half dozen houses before mentioned, on the townsite of Bon Homme, were built to form a kind of stockade, the buildings being on a line east, north and west, and the river on the south. The beautiful rolling prairie ran to the horizon, and the government road over which the stage traveled from Yankton to Ft. Randall ran across the townsite in a V-shape down to the river to the watering place where the stage driver slacked the thirst of his horses, then back to the hotel where the mail was left, and then he went on to the northwest and to the upper country. Everyone watched for the stage and watched it out of sight, as it was the event of the day. One of the early stage drivers was a man known by the name of "Texas Dick". Charles T. McCoy was also one of the early drivers.

It might also be in line to give you an idea of some of the Indian scares in the early days of Bon Homme. Mrs. Carrie Foster Carney writes the following: "The men employed on Dr. Burleigh's ranch east of the old townsite of Bon Homme, had missed some cattle and thought they had been stolen by the Indians and taken across the river to the island. The ranchmen came to town and hired every available man to go across the river next day to hunt for them.

-34-

A Mr. Rowley, who boarded at the Fraley hotel, hal the age and that day was his "shako day," so he could not go and remained at the hotel, which was situated on the east side of the little ravine opposite the school house.

The ranchmen and the "new comers" left the townsite about 9 a.m., going to the Burleigh ranch to cross the river in boats to Bon Homme Island.

"Twas a beautiful July day, and several of the mothers collected the soiled clothes of the family, carried them to the watering place at the river, where river water had been put in barrels to settle the night before, and in the shade of the small trees was found a nice place to do the family washing, while the smaller children played about until the clothes were dry, when they were gathered and the women and children returned home.

"All was peaceful and quiet when about 2 p.m. my little sister and I saw a cloud of dust up the road. We whispered to mother, and when she looked, what she saw was many horsemen coming. She called Della Rounds to the door and they decided it was either Indians coming, en masse, or soldiers to warn us of trouble. (It was soon after the New Ulm massacre, and we were easily frightened). To add to our discomfiture, as we looked over the little town we saw the women who were at home had seen these riders also, and were all hurrying to the hotel where the man was for protection. Mother told all the scholars her fears at once, and by that time we could see the riders, only a few miles away, coming furiously, and that they were Indians. Every one was in a panic and we too started for the hotel. Some of the half-breed boys caught up their "Plantation Bitter" bottles (shaped like log houses with doors and windows stamped in its chimney), in which they brought cold coffee for their lunch, and ran

-35-

toward the river, saying they would swim across for safety. How I wish I could picture the scene as we entered—the man was in bed in an adjoining room, helpless. The landlady had been ironing and stood ready for action with arms akimbo. One mother had tried to take her children upstairs and was holding the door closed, while others were pulling at the door to follow her. Another mother was kneeling and praying over her little ones by the table; others were crying and screaming. My mother had pushed her two little girls behind the open front door, and she stood back to protect them. Thus I had a good view of the outside through the crack of the door. Soon we heard shouts and hideous yells, and the clatter of horses' feet, and our worst fears were realized when about fifty half-breed Indians, gaily painted and feathered, brandishing their knives and waving their arms, rode up in front of the door, stopped and waited. Someone fainted, many screamed, but no one moved in the room, until Delia Rounds, a pretty girl of seventeen, and typical of her mother, deliberately walked out to them and asked in their own language what they wanted. They were friendly Indians from the Agency, who had been sent out by their agent, Dr. Burleigh, as scouts, and had come to report to him and get their pay, as usual, at the hotel.

"Delia told them how frightened we were and sent them down to the Burleigh ranch, and so we saw them swing around and start east. We drew deeper breaths and cuddled closer together, thankful that we had escaped alive. The Indians rode pell-mell down to the river bank to water their horses at the "watering place," unconscious of the women who were washing there. The surprise did not paralyze the women for they caught up their children and rushed out of the brush up to where they expected

to see the dead bodies of their friends, frightened, some crying, some angry, but later all thankful that it was no worse.

"The young Indians enjoyed the fun of the fright and later rode on down the road to the ranch where the ranchmen who knew them concluded to carry the joke farther and frighten the "newcomers" men. As these men, fresh from New York state, came down to cross the river to the ranch, what was their horror to see the Indians, as they supposed, in possession of the situation, and they at once realized a massacre had occurred, and their helpless women and children were killed. To add to their distress of mind they saw on the water what they had been told was a sign of immediate bloodshed, a light made by the sun shining on a circular looking glass (used by soldiers during the war), and reflected on the water. Such scrambling after boats and getting into quicksand, and having to go to meet their fate, as they supposed, they finally landed, were told the joke and that their families were safe. They wended their way home, discussing the events of the day in different moods."

Hugh Fraley conducted the first hotel in Bon Homme in 1862, and was later succeeded by Mrs. Bridget Cogan and others.

A Jew by the name of Trusler conducted the first general merchandise store in Bon Homme, and was succeeded by H. C. Davison & Co., who conducted a large store, the same being a sort of distributing point for the "upper country." Alois Zienert and D. W. Barber also came in 1872, in the general mercantile business.

In 1867 Company A., of fifty-two men, was stationed in Bon Homme, of which company W. A. Burleigh was captain; Nathan McDaniels, lieutenant, and George W. Owens, second lieutenant.

shop, etc. It was not only the county seat, but also the seat of the United States District Court until 1874. The first legislature came within one vote of locating the capitol there, but gave it the penitentiary instead.

In speaking of the old village of Bon Homme, and of the different families who settled there, we cannot help but mention the name of Mrs. Bridget Cogan. She and her brother came to Bon Homme in 1839. Shortly after, she had a large house built for hotel purposes. After a short time a prairie fire destroyed the house with everything in it. Mrs. Cogan and her brother barely escaping with their lives. They remained in the house until the roof fell in, when they were driven out into the open, the grass set fire to their clothing up to their knees and blistered their feet. She had been permitted to occupy the court house while her house was being constructed and after the destruction of her house by fire, and the adjournment of the United States District Court, she was allowed to use the court room as a hostelry until lumber could be shipped from Sioux City to erect a new building for that purpose. At times, during the session of the United States Court, as many as sixty people slept in their own blankets on her dining room floor, and often 250 meals were served three times a day. For many years the hotel she managed was famous for hundreds of miles around, and was the stopping place of all men of any consequence in the territory and later in the state, as well as the more humble traveler. General Custer was a daily guest at her hotel in the spring of 1873 when he was detained by high water on the way to his last battle on the little Big Horn river in Wyoming.

When the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railroad was built into the county in 1879, the right-of-way.

commissioners being Joseph Zitka, A. J. Cogan, and Wm. H. Andrews, Bon Homme was left out of the calculations of the builders, and other towns springing up along the line of the railroad, its prestige began to depart, its stores, shops and others followed each other in closing their doors; the buildings that had been the former hopes of the hopeful and contented pioneers were moved away, until at last the death blow came in the spring of 1885 by the way of the removal of the county seat to Tyndall, and now nothing is left of the former capital and metropolis of the county but the school house and the silent city of the dead where lie the remains of many of its former enterprising inhabitants.

Hutterische Brudder Gemeinde

While Bon Homme is dead, it has an old neighbor in the Hutterische Brudder Gemeinde, or Hutter Brotherhood, commonly known as the Mennonite Colony, that is very much alive. It is located about a mile from Bon Homme. The members of this colony are followers of Menno Symonds in religion. Like the Quakers they believe in non-resistance and plain dress. They believe and practice baptism and confession of faith at the age of fourteen years, when the child is presumed to understand their meaning. In material things the members of the society practice community ownership of property and live in a village by themselves in the midst of their landed possessions. Generally each family has a tenement by itself in the large tenement houses built of wood and stone, as are their numerous out-buildings, but they eat together in the common diningroom. The community ownership phase of the

colony is after the example of John Hutter, therefore the name of Hutterische Society.

This colony is comprised of Russian-Germans from South Russia, and was located in this county in 1873, on the Dr. Barleigh farm of about two thousand acres; it now has seven thousand acres.

Springfield

The location of Springfield is on the Missouri River, about eight miles above that of Bon Homme, on the Milwaukee road, somewhat elevated above the river and quite generally closed in by gently rolling prairie at a still higher elevation.

In 1862 Charles Cooper and R. M. Johnson located on the townsite and named it Springfield. They built a hotel there, which was torn down and the materials moved away shortly after it was built; but not before its enterprising founders issued a map showing the location of their prospective city.

The site of Springfield was entered by John A. Lee and George Lee in 1868 or 1869, and Gov. Burbank bought it in the latter year and platted it. Ogden Marsh surveyed or laid out the town in October, 1869, and in November of the same year Geo. W. Snow came from Wisconsin and took a pre-emption claim, a part of which is now the Springfield cemetery. Mr. Snow was elected Lieutenant-Governor of South Dakota in 1900, and re-elected to that position in 1902. Ogden Marsh moved here from Yankton in June, 1870, and erected two buildings. Shortly after this Gov. Burbank built a hotel, which later became the Hope Indian School.

In June, 1870, Jno. L. Turner joined the settlement and put a stock of goods in one of the Marsh

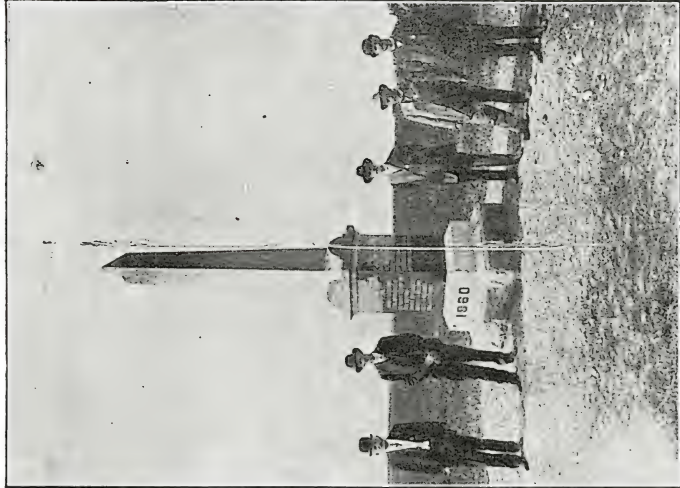
buildings, out of which grew the great business establishment of Bonesteel & Turner, known far and wide as one of the best equipped of its kind in the Territory. It was suggestive of the modern department store and was all that the name implies.

Ira J. Smith came in 1870 to help build up the community, and late the same year Lyman M. Judd, Isaac Hawthorne, William Emmons, Philip Steimel, J. E. Russel, Samuel Henderson, Richard Lane, J. C. Thomas and others joined the settlement. Then came the following year, L. D. F. Poore, George Mead, Clark S. Rowe, H. A. James, A. F. McAuley, Michel Griffen, E. W. Hall, R. T. Wood and B. H. Wood.

A grasshopper raid is thus described by I. J. Smith, one of the early settlers:

"It was about the first of August, 1874, when several of us boys were standing on one of the street corners of Springfield, engaged in conversation, when I happened to look to the north, and there behold on the horizon extending east and west as far as the eye could reach, a dark looking cloud which had the appearance of smoke from an extensive prairie fire, which I at first took it to be, but on remembering that the prairie grass was still green, I had to look for some other explanation. My next thought was that it was a dust storm driven by a fierce wind, when one of the boys suggested that it might be grasshoppers. "What, you don't expect to make me believe that immense cloud to be grasshoppers?"—laughing at the idea. Now, I was thoroughly interested in the oncoming cloud. Nearer and nearer it came, until looking up toward the sun I could see some of the foremost ones swiftly passing over. Then came the main body of them, with here and there one coming down as gently as snow flakes at the beginning of a snow storm. Then thicker and thicker they came, a regular shower of

Monument erected
by the Pioneers As-
sociation of Bon
Homme County in
1910 to commemo-
rate first school
house in Dakota
Territory, with con-
tributions from
school children
and citizens



Monument
Committee
Geo. W. Snow
A. J. Abbott
J. L. Turner
F. B. Brooks
F. A. Morgan

grasshoppers, until everything was covered with them. They remained about three days, harvested our crops, ate up our gardens, and being particularly fond of onions, ate them clean to the ground, and then apparently standing on their heads would eat the bulb clean out of the ground, leaving only the holes in the ground where the onions grew. They would blacken the sides of the houses by their numbers, ready to go inside whenever the door was open, and I have actually seen them light on a small cottonwood tree five or six feet high in such numbers that they would bend it over to the ground, having the appearance of a swarm of bees. After completing their work of destruction, the wind having shifted to their liking, about the middle of the forenoon, with a roaring, buzzing sound, they began their departure, and drifted across the sky in broken clouds a considerable portion of the day."

Conrad Eymor came to Bon Homme County in September, 1869. He came from Kentucky to Sioux City on the train, and from Sioux City to Bon Homme in a boat as there were no trains into Dakota at that time. He homestead 160 acres 7 miles northwest of Bon Homme, no other house being north or west of him. The next year, 1870, the first building was put up in Springfield. Other settlers then came and located near Mr. Eymor. As soon as there was a postoffice in Springfield he got his mail from there. The first vehicle Mr. Eymor had was a sort of stoneboat he had made out of some timbers. He had one horse. He made a harness out of string and rope. Hitching his horse to the stone boat he took Mrs. Eymor and Mrs. John Mullague to Springfield shopping, Mr. Eymor leading the horse while the ladies rode.

The making and use of the first United States flag in Bon Homme County is thus described by

Hon. J. L. Turner:

"In 1872 it was suggested by the ladies of Springfield that we celebrate the Fourth of July with a picnic at Emanuel Creek, but it was agreed that we could not celebrate without a flag. It was proposed that if the gentlemen would furnish the material the ladies would make the flag. This was readily consented to and the flag was made by the ladies here at home and carried at the head of the procession on the march to the picnic grounds, Springfield's first Fourth of July celebration and picnic, and its first flag. The committee appointed to make this flag was Mrs. J. L. Turner, Mrs. Geo. Mead, Mrs. Dr. Eagle, and Mrs. R. T. Wood. I regret that the names of all the ladies who took part in the making of this flag have not been preserved, and as they are all dead now we cannot authoritatively get the other names.

"I think it is safe to state that this was the first flag in Bon Homme County used in celebrating the Fourth of July; it has been in my possession ever since, has been used on all kinds of occasions, both public and private, and for a number of years the only flag in Springfield.

"This is its history in connection with Springfield, but it has a still further history: In the winter of 1881 one of the State Normal schools was located at Springfield, but without any appropriation. In the fall of that year it was deemed wise to start a Normal school, and therefore a gentleman was employed to take charge of it. The Normal was conducted in a part of the public school building, a small tuition was charged, and the deficiency made up by going down in our pockets. This deficiency remains with some of our citizens.

"The flag was the first to float over the Springfield State Normal, and the fact of its having been

left up on a windy night accounts largely for its present condition.

"It has been my desire that at some time it should be properly labeled and have a permanent place for safekeeping, and I know of no better place than the Normal school. I therefore present it to your President and his successors, asking that it be properly cared for."

The United States Land Office was located at Springfield in 1870. Luman N. Judd was its first Register, and Dr. Augersburg its Receiver. The office was the first building erected in the town, and Gov. Snow helped to haul the lumber that built it.

In 1870 Geo. W. Snow and Samuel Henderson operated a saw mill on the townsite near the river, and furnished cottonwood lumber for the framework of all the early buildings.

In 1872 H. C. Davison & Co. moved their merchandise business from Bon Homme to Springfield and George Mead built his residence. H. C. Davison following in 1873 and occupied the hotel.

In 1872 J. L. Turner was joined by H. E. Bonesteel and in 1873 moved to their new building on Eighth Street. It might also be interesting to state that Mr. J. L. Turner is the oldest subscriber to the "Sioux City Journal" in the northwest.

In 1873 James H. Stephens opened the first harness shop and furniture store. Later he combined with George Mead in the same business.

The 7th Cavalry, Gen. Geo. A. Custer in command, passed through Springfield about noon Sunday, May 10th, 1873, on their march to Fort Rice. They went into camp just across Emanuel Creek. A large number of citizens visited them and paid their respects to Gen. Custer.

The Masonic Lodge was organized in 1875, and the Odd Fellows Lodge in 1875. The first bank in

the county was opened in June, 1883 by Geo. W. Snow and Ruben Groot, which bank was known as the Bank of Springfield.

The first postoffice in this section of the country was established on Emanuel Creek, two and a half miles northwest of the present site, and Nathan McDaniels was postmaster. The office was moved to Springfield in 1870, and John L. Turner was appointed postmaster and served until 1878.

The town was incorporated as a village in 1872 and its Trustees were John L. Turner, Geo. W. Snow and R. T. Wood. It was organized as a city by a special act of the Legislature in 1881, and its first city officers were John L. Turner, Mayor; James H. Stephens, V. R. Van Curen, F. A. Morgan and George Heffner, Aldermen; A. T. Bridgman, City Justice of the Peace; A. T. Stille, Treasurer, and F. W. Gassman, Clerk.

The first school house was built in 1872, and Fred Wells was the first teacher. The first church service was held in June, 1870, by Rev. Joseph Ward, a Congregational minister, in the land office building, the main part of which still stands and is the home now occupied by Mr. Earl Echeberger. This was the first Congregational church organized in the county. The Congregational Church of Springfield was organized November 4, 1871, by Rev. Stewart Sheldon, who served as pulpit supply at different times during the early days of the church, and later held the position of General Missionary for Dakota Territory. Dr. Ward also used to come up from Yankton frequently to preach for us. The first regular services were held in the school house by Rev. Hoyt. The first church building was the Episcopal Church, built in 1878 by the citizens of Springfield and Bishop W. H. Hare. Bishop Hare conducted

services for several years assisted by Rev. W. W. Fowler.

The first fourth of July celebration in the county was held in 1870 at Bly Woods' home on Emanuel Creek, and Rev. J. P. Williamson gave the address in the Indian and English language.

Hope School, which we have mentioned before, was established by Bishop Hare in 1879, and its fine stone structure built by him in 1884, later sold to the United States, but now again owned by the Episcopal Church.

The State Normal School was located here in 1881 and was maintained by contributions of the citizens for several years, and finally after they had built and donated to the state a building which cost upwards of ten thousand dollars. Through the efforts of our members of the legislature, J. H. Stephens, J. O. Smith, and Capt. Jos. Leach, it was given a grant of 40,000 acres of public lands, and later appropriations for maintenance and addition to the main building. The success of this school is no longer problematical. It is taking rank with the older Normal schools of the state, and is second to none of them in serving its functions of preparing efficient teachers for the common schools.

The first newspaper in the county was the "Springfield Times," issued by L. D. F. Poore, June 1871. Later Mr. Poore became Register of the United States Land Office, and died a few years ago at Yankton.

The first mill in Springfield was built in 1881, and operated until 1913 by J. L. Turner & Son, when it was destroyed by fire.

The original electric light plant, the first in Bon Homme County, from which the present steam plant has grown that now lights four towns in this county and Niobrara, Nebr., was built by F. A. Burdick in

the summer of 1894. It was a small affair, driven by artisan power, and at first lighted the most of the business houses and a few of the residences of Springfield. Soon after completion Mr. Burdick sold the plant to John Wenzel, who operated it for about four years. This plant was then taken over by Mrs. Fanny E. Turner, who installed a larger dynamo, gasoline power, and continued to operate the plant, until it was sold to the present Light & Power Co., a few years ago.

The City of Springfield now boasts of four churches, two banks, several merchandise stores and many other business interests. Its citizens are enterprising and willing to boost for any proposition for the welfare of Springfield, the community, and Bon Homme County.

The villages of Bon Homme and Springfield were incorporated by the same Legislature, Springfield, however, being mentioned first.

Scotland

Scotland is located in the northeast part of the county on high table land, which is drained by Dawson Creek a short distance away. It is at the junction of the main line and the Running Water branch of the C. M. & St. Paul Ry. The land on which it was built was donated by John Stafford to John Lawler, who shortly after in 1879, laid out the town.

The late General Charles T. Campbell, while serving as Brigadier-General in the Civil War, in 1863 passed through this region, then wild and unoccupied, and being impressed by the beauty and fertile character of the country at the crossing of Dawson

Creek, was lead to locate near the present townsite in 1870, and was soon followed by a large number of other settlers led by John Stafford. When the C. M. & St. Paul Ry Co. was surveying its main line west from Canton, the General, being acquainted with Alexander Mitchell, then president of the road, wrote him, suggesting that he run a line through by way of the site of Scotland from Marion Junction through the present townsite of Scotland and Tyndall by way of Springfield and to Running Water.

Scotland was incorporated in 1881 as a village by special charter, and in 1885 was by special act incorporated as a city. Its first trustees were Jacob Brinkerhoff, Karl Max, Hiram A. Reeves, F. V. Williams and Martin Hofer. The treasurer was George Jassman; clerk, William M. Robinson, and John C. Clark, marshal.

The first building in Scotland was erected by Christ U. Dilger, and it was also the first building in the town destroyed by fire. The first store was that of John Stafford, moved from the location of the Scotland postoffice on General Campbell's farm, a stage station a half mile below the townsite.

During the winters of 1874-5-6 a school was conducted on the second floor of John Stafford's store, which was taught by Wesley Douglas, and in 1876 a chalk stone building was erected which was used for school and church purposes.

The first school built in the town limits of Scotland was built in 1880, and the first teacher was Mrs. Carrie E. Dollard. The Methodist Society was organized several years before the town was located and had a small church building adjoining the town where it continued to hold its services until about 1884, when a new structure was built near the center of the town. The Presbyterian Church was or-

ganized in 1870; its church was built in 1881, and its first minister was Rev. H. P. Carson. The Episcopalian Society was the last church organized by the Venerable Melancthon Hoyt, sometimes known as "Father Hoyt," the pioneer clergyman of the territory, in 1884. He held services for a considerable time thereafter. In 1886 the society built a handsome and commodious church. The Catholic Church Society was organized early in the history of the town as were the German churches, five in number, and they all have good substantial buildings.

This town contains four hotels, among them the famed "Campbell House," built in 1880 by the late General Campbell, and conducted by him for many years in such a way as to give him an interesting and lasting reputation among the traveling men of the northwest by his peculiar and striking character-istics. He was a distinguished Union General in the Mexican and Civil Wars. The town also has one of the oldest public libraries, established in 1883.

As the railroad at first did not go beyond Scotland, the crops from Hutchinson, Douglas and Charles Mix counties were marketed here, and Scotland was known as the greatest primary flax market in the world. The seed is also said to have surpassed that of any other portion of the world, being richer in oil than the famous flax of India.

The first two carloads of merchandise shipped into Bon Homme County by freight were shipped to Scotland and billed to John L. Turner, Springfield, who hauled the same with teams and wagons from Scotland to Springfield, the loads consisted of a car of apples and a car of general merchandise.

Tyndall

Tyndall is a thriving town near the geographical center of the county, and since the spring of 1885 has been the county seat. The town was surveyed and platted by D. W. Currier, in 1879.

It is located at the junction of the Running Water and Charles Mix County branch, otherwise the "Squaw Central" of the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Ry. The first building in Tyndall was the railway depot.

Some of the first residences and business buildings in Tyndall were moved here from a small settlement called Danbury, located on Emanuel Creek four miles west of Tyndall. The little settlement was called Danbury after its founder Daniel W. Currier.

The following might be mentioned as some of the first business establishments in Tyndall: First grocery store, Martin Roose; first lumber yard, F. A. Morgan, Jan. 1880; D. W. Currier, Alois Zienert and D. W. Barber opened up stores somewhat later. Anton Chastka, the first saloon; Bouza & Bous-ton, general merchandise; H. Goepfert, agricultural implements, etc.; G. T. Rounds, livery; L. A. Haight, meat market; Mrs. M. E. Congleton, hotel. Martin Roose was the first postmaster. Alois Zien-ert received the first freight receipt issued by M. E. Talcott, agent for the Milwaukee railway, said re-ceipt was dated December 9, 1879, and was for one box of rabbits, weight 100 pounds, shipped to Port-age, Wisconsin, by Mr. Zienert, which receipt is now in the possession of the writer.

The first Congregational Church of Tyndall was

organized in 1880 when the new county seat was but a mere infant. Rev. D. B. Nichols, pastor at Bon Homme, began the work and later Rev. William B. Hubbard served the church for a time. Meetings were held in the house now occupied by John Kiehl-bauch, in the depot and in a tent. Then the church was discontinued for a time until 1905, when it was reorganized. Meetings were held in Forrester's hall and Williams' store until December, 1897, when the new building was occupied. The church pro-spered for a time and recently they have federated with the M. E. Church. The first church building in Tyndall was the M. E. Church, in 1881, and was presided over by Rev. Kent. However, Rev. Snyder made occasional visits to the community and held services at the home of John Colgan prior to 1881.

The first school was held in a building about 16x20, owned by Martin Roose, and was located on a lot south of the home now owned by William Thompson, which building was later removed to the main street and was used as a grocery store by the owner. The first teacher was Mrs. America Rounds (now Mrs. J. P. Ser), in the year 1880. The number of pupils was about fifteen, and the oldest among them was Mattie Miller. The teacher states that Mr. F. A. Morgan was the only visitor she had during the term.

Originally the town of Tyndall had two business sections. Martin J. Roose had a grocery store and J. J. Sperr a wagon shop in the present business section. D. W. Currier had a drug store and grocery store on the present site of the L. F. Chladek drug store, and a little later Alois Zienert started a gen-eral merchandise store on the street north of the Catholic Church. Anton Chastka had a saloon there and Mr. Marhley a blacksmith shop, but finally the business section of the north part of the town was

moved to the present location and several of the business houses in the north end of the town have been remodeled into dwelling houses.

It might also be interesting to note at this time that the lumber business first started in Tyndall by Rockwell & Morgan in January, 1880, has continued in business ever since, while the name has been changed to the "F. A. Morgan Lumber Co." Morgan & Colburn, and otherwise F. A. Morgan has always been its head for more than forty-one years. This perhaps is the oldest business establishment carried on by the same head in the northwest.

The Tyndall Tribune was established in Tyndall in 1881 by S. W. Wilcox, the first copy of which is in the writer's possession, and the "Tyndall Register," not long after, was published by Frank Richmond.

Tyndall was incorporated as a city in 1887. Its first mayor was D. W. Currier; Aldermen, J. B. Markley, Peter Hahn, C. H. Stilwell, S. W. Wilcox, and L. I. Smith.

The court house, a beautiful structure in the northwest part of the town, with the beautifully grassed and shady block on which it is located, was presented to the county by Daniel W. Currier, the owner of the townsite, in 1885, in consideration of the location of the county seat at Tyndall by the voters of the county, and is a monument to the public spirit of "Uncle Dan" which his kindred and friends may justly view with gratifying pride.

There are seven churches in Tyndall, and excellent public schools in which every consideration is given to the education of the pupils, which the liberality of the taxpayers and civic pride and duty demands, not only by the teachers and school officers, but the public as well. Tyndall also boasts of a beautiful \$15,000 Carnegie library, well equipped and largely patronized, obtained largely through the

efforts of the Ladies' Improvement Association.

Tyndall has never been a boom town, but it has enjoyed a steady and healthy growth. Today its population numbers more than fifteen hundred according to the latest numerical census. In the matter of public improvements it compares favorably with any other western town of equal population and in private business houses and residences there are few, if any, that equal it.

Tyndall was named by Dr. O. Richmond, after the great scientist, "Tyndall."

The city owns its waterworks and electric light and power plant. There is also a public park of 17 acres, with skating pond and other attractions. The city voted bonds a year ago as follows: For a municipal auditorium, to be dedicated to the American Legion, \$30,000—this will provide lodge rooms and club rooms for Pike Post No. 2, a large room for general public assemblies, offices for the city and commercial club, etc. To complete and pay for the light and power house, \$50,000.

Among the institutions that may be mentioned as having contributed to the present growth and prosperity of this community are six grain elevators, a large flour mill, two strong banks, two lumber yards, modern stores with large stocks of merchandise, and good railway facilities.

All nationalities are represented in the town and the various branches of business are carefully looked after and managed by men who work in unity for the greatest accomplishment of the greatest good to the greatest number.

Avon

Avon postoffice was established in 1881. Geo. W. Phoenix was appointed postmaster. Later the office was moved to the Wilson store, and R. L. Wilson was postmaster. In the fall of 1900 when the railroad was built west of Tyndall, the postoffice was moved to where Avon now stands on land formerly owned by Martin Reese and Christ Johnson.

The town was incorporated in 1902 and its first municipal officers were Albert Vauk, Henry Giedt, Herman Walkes and George Vilhauer, trustees; clerk, Charles Zeek. Avon's first postmaster was Charles Kiewer.

Avon has five elevators, two banks, five general stores, two hardware stores, two garages, furniture store, hotel, restaurant, two drug stores, and a clothing store; five churches and two good schools.

Many beautiful residences are being built and the town shows every evidence of being prosperous and progressing.

Tabor

The Tabor settlement was begun in the spring of 1870 under the leadership of Frank Bem. All settlers were Bohemians. The quarter section on which Tabor now stands was taken up as a pre-emption claim by Johanna Kocer, and at the end of six months not being able to pay the government the required amount of \$205, the land was taken up

by Josie Janda. Another six months passed and still no money in sight. The land was again taken up by Johanna Kocer as a homestead. On the 14th day of April, 1872, the settlers called a meeting of the colony, same having heretofore been organized as a Literary Society, at which time the object of the meeting was stated, namely, the purchase of the 160 acres from Miss Kocer and plat and lay out a townsite; and another meeting was called for the following day. April 15, 1872, it was voted to purchase the quarter section of land from Miss Kocer for the sum of \$200, and the land was deeded to John Hahl and Vaclav Janda. On the same date an executive committee was elected, of which committee John Hahl was president, Joseph Vyhorny trustee, Vaclav Janda secretary, and Joseph Hruska treasurer. These meetings were held at the home of John Hahl. On the 20th of April, 1872, another meeting was called when it was decided that the 160 acres of the land so purchased be divided into 53 lots, 220x286 2-3 ft., so that each member of the Literary Society might own a lot, one lot being set aside for a church, one lot for a school, and one lot for a cemetery, and the remaining 40 acres to be held for the benefit of the society. Said forty acres were sold to the C. M. & St. Paul Ry. Co. in 1909 and the railroad buildings located thereon. The town was surveyed by Frank Bem and the village named Tabor.

In the spring of 1873 the school district was organized and the hauling of lumber from the Missouri river was commenced for the purpose of erecting a school house. The building was 18x24, and on the 4th of July, 1873, Independence Day was celebrated in the school house. Joseph Vyhorny was speaker of the day, and in the evening a dance was held at which Jan Hahl and Frank Fefar were the

-39-

musicians, each playing a violin. In the fall of 1873 a three months' term of school was held, Joseph Zitka being the first teacher at a salary of \$20 per month. There being no organization of any kind, no taxes to be paid, the settlers taxed themselves in order to maintain their school. Those who owned 160 acres paid \$2.50 a month, and those who owned 320 acres paid \$5.00 per month. The pupils numbered about 30, and each year the number of months of school was increased, according to the means of the settlers. In 1882 a new school house was built.

The first business building in Tabor was erected by Vaclav Janda in 1876, the front part of which was used for a general merchandise store, and the back part for the family residence. Later the building was sold to F. J. Peifar and in 1887 to John Janda and Joseph V. Wagner. In 1902 it was again sold to Joseph Petrik and John Honner, and in 1905 Charles Vauk purchased the same, and the store has been enlarged from time to time, and is now operated by Vauk Brothers. Joseph Petras built the first blacksmith shop, Fred Cach a dance hall, Thomas Soudrada the first dwelling to which no business was attached, the other buildings being used for business as well as the home. Other business houses followed. Chladek Bros. and Joseph Herman built the second building in the town. These were followed by Vlasak & Straka, Joseph Kofranek, Joseph Vyborny and others.

The town progressed but little, until 1900 when the C. M. & St. Paul Railway was built through it. In 1901 the town was incorporated, with Joseph V. Wagner, Joseph Halla and Joseph Novak as trustees, Joseph V. Wagner acting as president of the board. Since that time the town has progressed very rapidly, the Roman Catholic Church has one of the largest congregations and finest brick struc-

tures in the state; they also have a beautiful parish house and a parochial school in very successful operation; all of these buildings were erected through the energetic and zealous efforts of Rt. Rev. Father Monsignor Bouska, the able, accomplished and popular parish priest. Many beautiful homes and business places have been built and the town enjoys a high degree of prosperity.

Father Sulak was the first Catholic priest to hold services in the community of Tabor, services being held in the school house and also at the home of Vaclav Janda. He made occasional visits to the community. The second priest who settled in Tabor was Father Joseph Krizek, who came from Bohemia in 1877, and resided at the home of Joseph Hruska, there being no parish house at the time.

The library of the Literary Society first organized in Tabor, is still in existence, the same being located at the parish house, and anyone wishing to borrow the books are welcome, no charges being made for the use of the books.

In 1872 the residents of the community of Tabor commenced to make small payments towards the erection of a Catholic church. The first church was built of chalk rock, hauled from the Missouri River banks. The building was 24 ft. wide and 50 ft. long, and was completed in 1874. There being no place for the church bell, the same was placed on a sort of rack on the ground near the church, and when the magnificent church was completed the church bell was put in the belfry of the new church.

The first newspaper published in Tabor was the "Tabor Independent," issued October 6, 1904, and the same is now published by J. A. Dvorak.

August 25, 1920, Tabor celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of the coming of the first settlers to that

community, which celebration was attended by people from all parts of the state, as well as other states. August 24, 1930, was celebrated as Pioneers' Day and the day following, Bohemian Day.

Havlicek

In 1872, south of Tahor, on the Joseph Ptak farm, a postoffice was established with Joseph Ptak as postmaster, which postoffice was named after the great Bohemian statesman, Charles Havlicek, but was mis-spelled "Hawlejek." Said postoffice was discontinued a few years later.

Running Water

Running Water is located on the Missouri River at the terminus of the C. M. & St. Paul Ry. Co. About January, 1860, the late Henry Brooks, at one time a member of the territorial legislature, and for many years one of the leading citizens of Bon Homme County, settled at what afterwards became known as Running Water, on the Missouri River, with the hope and confidence that it would one day become one of the large cities of the river, as the crossing point of one or more of the great railroad systems of the northwest.

He built his dwelling house and moved into it about June, 1860, and from thenceforth until his death, a few years ago, was a residence there. He was the first postmaster of his settlement, which was called Mineral Springs, and continued in the

office until the town of Running Water was platted in 1880, and then became his own successor.

Rev. Geo. Williams, Presbyterian, of Nebraska, was the first minister to hold religious services in the town. Its religious societies now are the Roman Catholic and Congregational. The latter was organized by the late Rev. Chas. Secombe of Springfield.

The first school was established during that year and its teacher was Miss Alice Treffry. Its business establishments are the general store founded by the late Henry Brooks in 1884; the Running Water Hotel, and a blacksmith shop. This town is the headquarters of the Missouri River Transportation Company, which has a fleet of steamboats running between Sioux City and up-river points, put in service by the enterprising Captain Joseph Leach, who has justly earned the title of Commodore, according to the precedent in the case of the late genial and admirable Commodore Coulson.

Perkins

Perkins was founded several years ago by Captain Leach, of Running Water. There is a general store there, and the place has a postoffice, church and blacksmith shop and dance hall. It is in the midst of one of the finest and best improved sections of the county, about eight miles west of Springfield.

Kingsburg

Kingsburg, first called Brownsville, was founded in 1917, and named Kingsburg after its founder, Mike King. This town is located five miles north of Springfield. The first general merchandise store was built and operated by Fred Udinek, Robt. Vaak and H. C. Schneider. It prospered for a while and finally closed out. Recently H. L. Taplett of Tyndall put in a stock of merchandise in the building formerly occupied by the above named firm. The town is located in a thriving community and has a bank, church, restaurant, lumber yard, several nice residences and other places of business. The town is unorganized.

Blaha

Blaha is located between Scotland and Tyndall, on the C. M. & St. Paul Ry., on a farm owned by Bartolomej Blaha, after whom the town is named. Mr. Blaha homesteaded this land in 1879, and in 1905 sold forty acres thereof for the townsite, and when the railroad company was obliged to put in a side track there, they named it Neuberg. Later a postoffice was established and carried with it the name of Blaha, by which it is known today.

The first building erected in Blaha was by T. V. Ptak, which building was carried away by the winds. Later Mr. Ptak built another lumber yard, which is now managed by Vaclav Sykora. Later

Dalystown

In the latter end of the 70's a postoffice was located at Egbert Hornstra's place, and he was the postmaster. This was continued for some years. Part of the time this office was supplied with mail by voluntary messengers. It was finally discontinued for want of patronage.

Loretta

Loretta, a small settlement south of Avon, has gone out of existence since the railroad was extended into Charles Mix county, but at one time John Moser conducted a small store there and was also postmaster. Later Philip Pfaltzgraff conducted a large merchandise store, not only a store, but bought and sold grain and anything and everything the people in the community had to sell or needed. Abraham Schultz, who died a year ago, at one time conducted a blacksmith shop there.

Andrus

Andrus also having passed out of existence some time ago, was located on Chouteau Creek, about eighteen miles west of Springfield. Joseph Krejci managed a large flour mill there, known as the Andrus Roller Mill, which mill did quite a thriving business until in 1894 it burned. Maj. W. D. E. Andrus had a small general merchandise store, later was succeeded by Andrus & Schwerdtmann, and finally a Mrs. Tinker conducted the same up to a very few years ago. George Trumbo was postmaster at Chouteau Creek, near Andrus, at one time, and also his place was a sort of stopping place for the stage and others on their way to Ft. Randall and the up hill country as it was called in the early days.

Wanari

About 1877 the Wanari postoffice was established, some seven or eight miles west of Springfield, at the home of A. A. Perkins, who was the postmaster for several years. Later it was moved a short distance south and east to the residence of E. C. Macey, who acted as postmaster until some years later when the office was abolished. Postoffices were also established at Myrtle and Worms, but these have long been discontinued.

The first meeting of the Association, then called "Old Settlers," was held at Tyndall, January 19, 1889, and the following were present: D. P. Brad-

ford, Geo. W. Snow, Geo. Trumbo, Oregon Richmond, John E. Petrie, S. W. Wilcox, Conrad Eymor, Patrick McDonald, William Abbott, Paul Landmann, and Peter Wagner. D. P. Bradford was elected president and Geo. W. Snow, treasurer. \$3.25 was collected and \$2.00 paid out for expenses, leaving \$1.25, which Mr. Snow still has in a little box kept for housing the funds.

The next gathering of the kind was held at Tyndall, Sept. 19, 1890, called the "Old Settlers' Club of Bon Homme County." Officers elected were: Robert Treffry, president; B. H. Wood, vice-president, and J. H. Rouse, secretary.

The next meeting was held at Tyndall, Sept. 20, 1901, at which time the name of the organization was changed to "The Pioneer Association of Bon Homme County," and the qualification for membership was fixed as follows: "Any resident of Bon Homme county who came to Dakota in 1838 or prior," which was amended at the meeting held in 1907 as follows "Any person who has resided in Bon Homme county or South Dakota for a period of 25 years or more shall be entitled to membership herein upon payment of 25 cents."

Volumes could be written and many very interesting stories told of the pioneer days of Bon Homme County, but the least that we the coming generation can do, is to take off our hats and reverently bow our heads, the Pioneers of Bon Homme County are passing by:

Their ranks are growing thinner,
their eyes are growing dim,
But the heritage they left us
should fill our hearts with vim,
To push onward, ever onward,
and when our journey's done,
From out the shores of eternity,
may they echo back, Well done.

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